

issues and legislation regarding the security of our law enforcement community and the American people. There is no greater function of the Federal Government than to provide for the common defense against all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

Therefore, it is imperative that we work to support our law enforcement officers and agents and their families by providing them with the training and resources they need to properly carry out their duties. Furthermore, there should be greater incentives in place to encourage harsher sentences for violent offenders who might otherwise be released to the streets and repeat dangerous offenses.

While law enforcement officers risk their own safety every day for the well-being of our Nation and local communities, Congress must do as much as possible to ensure the preparedness and security of our noble crime fighters. As we prepare next week to nationally honor the courage of police officers like our own Texas State Trooper Scott Burns, let us consider the well-being of our law enforcement officers and their families with the same persistence and selflessness with which they afford us.

WE NEED AN ENERGY PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) for 1 minute.

Mr. AKIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the last little more than a year, gasoline prices have gone up \$1.33 cents a gallon. That's a larger increase than what we've had over the previous 5 years before that. The Democrat leadership said that they had a plan at that time, this is a year ago, to keep the gas prices from going up. Yet the gas prices have gone up.

Now I don't think the American public wants us to bicker between parties. They want us to be solving problems. And I don't believe it's the Democrats' fault necessarily that the gas prices have gone up internationally. But what is a problem is that we're not dealing with the problem. What we should be talking about is how do we move off of our dependence on foreign oil to American energy? What we should be seeing would be movement in the direction, depending on which way people want to go, additional refinement capacity. There have been no new refineries built in over 30 years. Investment in new nuclear technology. Our nuclear technology is old, many, many years old. It's a good source of energy. The idea of getting liquid fuel from coal. We have tremendous coal resources. Shouldn't there be something being done in that area?

But nothing in any of these areas. A lack of a plan is unacceptable. It's not the Democrats' fault that gas prices go up, but it is a problem when we don't have a plan.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, drawing us ever closer to You, the spring rains make us mindful of Your presence in our lives.

Water comes down from the heavens as rain. Although it is always the same itself, it produces so many different effects. One in the tree, another in the rose bush, still another in the vine, and so in the whole of creation. Remaining essentially the same, the rain adapts itself to the needs of each creature that receives it with the openness of absorbing life.

In the same way, Your Spirit, Lord, remaining absolutely simple in its integrity, apportions its grace upon each Member of Congress. Your Spirit makes one a teacher of honest facts; another a visionary of the future; to another, the ability to remove obstacles; and yet another the art of compromise. Still others respond with a depth of spirituality and service not easily recognized.

May all respond to this plenitude and accomplish great deeds for this Nation, revealing Your glory at work in the world now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WHO'S THE "CHUMP" IN THE OIL GAME?

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, we have a situation today where Americans are paying almost \$4 a gallon for gasoline. This morning, Goldman Sachs announced that oil is going to go up to \$150 to \$200 a barrel, which means that it is not going to stop at \$4. It will be about \$5 or \$6.

Now, think about this: This is a tremendous boom to Iran and Iraq. Iran will gain enormous wealth and political influence. Iraq will get even more revenue than the \$72 billion they're anticipating this year. They got \$100 billion over the last couple of years, much of it our money.

And yet Americans have already contributed over half a trillion dollars to Iraq's economy. Within the next couple of weeks, we'll appropriate another \$170 billion. Iraqis are getting a surplus of oil revenue from us and yet we are paying to pick up their garbage and train their security forces when they've got surpluses they don't even know what to do with.

Who's the chump in this picture, Madam Speaker?

LET'S BE CAUTIOUS WITH MORTGAGE BAIL-OUT PROGRAMS

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, before I came to Congress, I had an opportunity to serve my constituents in a different way. I was a home builder, a land developer, and even a mortgage lender. I know firsthand some of the problems that the real estate industry and the housing industry is facing today.

Ninety-four percent of the American homeowners are paying their mortgage